



CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

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CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

FROM

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 1984

REPORT TO MEMBERS

DECEMBER 1984

SEASONAL GREETINGS

The Chairman, his fellow Directors and Staff of the Federation extend greetings and good wishes to all associated with Co-operatives in membership of the Federation for the coming Christmas season and for prosperity, good health and happiness in 1985.

With these greetings comes the appreciation of the Board of Directors to members for their support and involvement in the past year of educational, social economic and political activity for Co-operatives of all types.

CHANGE OF OFFICE BEARERS

At the November Board Meeting, being the first one held subsequent to the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Brian Macintosh was elected as Chairman to succeed Mr. Niel Black who, after four years in the office, declined to accept re-nomination.

Mr. Owen Slattery was elected Vice Chairman.

NEW CHAIRMAN

Brian Macintosh, as General Manager Morwell Co-operative, with a lifetime of service in and to Co-operatives in Victoria, a founding board member of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria, and a long serving Councillor of the Co-operative Federation of Australia, brings a wealth of experience to approach his new responsibilities.

RETIREMENT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Board has accepted the notice of intention to retire, from Executive Officer, Bill Rawlinson, to be effective at 31st December 1984.

A committee of the Board has been appointed to select and recommend appointment of a successor.

CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

We have been advised of a clarification of some confusion amongst Queensland Co-operatives and their Registrar on the matter of whether 'natural persons' only could be members of Co-operatives to the exclusion of 'corporate bodies'. That State's Minister administering Co-operative legislation has now advised that corporate bodies should

be allowed as members of Co-operatives.

In Victoria, the Co-operation Act 1981 defines members of a Co-operative as those "persons who sign the application for membership on the formation of the Co-operative and any other persons who are admitted to membership in accordance with its rules...."

The Federation would welcome information from members who might have experienced difficulty on this matter of membership.

COMPANIES (VICTORIA) CODE - DEFINITION OF A CO-OPERATIVE

To assist Co-operatives incorporated under the Companies (Victoria) Code, on the subject of amendment of the present definition in that Act as requested of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Co-operation, the Federation has constituted a committee of representatives of Co-operative Companies.

Presently the definition is that set out in Division 9 of the Income Tax Assessment Act which, amongst other things, states -

"If in the ordinary course of business of a company in the year of income the value of "business done with members...." is less than ninety per cent of the total value".... of business done....by it, that company shall in respect of that year be deemed not to be a co-operative company".

Work is now in hand drafting an acceptable amendment. Suggestions which may assist the Committee and Victorian Co-operatives would be welcomed by the Federation.

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION

Resulting from meetings in various country centres between Committee representatives and Producer Trading and Marketing Co-operatives, a report has been collated for submission to the Committee on 5th December 1984. A similar report from Consumer and Credit Co-operatives has also been collated.

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

The President, Mr. Bob Bourne of New South Wales attended the XXVIIIth Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance held in Hamburg, West Germany in October 1984.

CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES AND CREDIT UNIONS

Credit Unions are involved in the Federation by the delegate of the Victorian Credit Co-operative Association serving as a duly elected member of the Board. Currently this Director is Maurice Seviar.

The International Forum of Credit Unions, held in Panama in August 1984, adopted a set of nine Credit Union operating principles. These are based on the six Principles of Co-operation adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance in 1966 and recognised by Co-operatives and Government in Victoria as the encapsulation of basic Co-operative philosophy.

The Credit Union operating Principles are:

Democratic Structure

1. Open and voluntary membership
2. Democratic control
3. Non discrimination in race, religion and politics

Service to Members

4. Distribution of surplus
5. Building financial stability
6. Service to members

Social Goals

7. Education of members, officers, employees, community
8. Co-operation amongst Co-operatives
9. Social responsibility